

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF STEVEN MATTSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of a longtime public servant, Steven Mattson of Lyme, Connecticut. Steven officially retired from his role as First Selectman of Lyme on July 5, 2022, given the end of the town's fiscal year. Initially appointed in 2017, Steven has dutifully filled the role of Lyme's highest official for three elected terms.

Steven has served the town of Lyme in multiple capacities for 27 years since he first moved with his family to Connecticut in 1996. This not only includes his tenure as First Selectman, but also an additional 17 years on the Board of Selectmen as well as positions on just about every other board and commission available in town. A small enclave of Connecticut and the larger New England region, with a local population hovering around 2,300, municipalities like Lyme rely on the leadership example set by Steven, who has acted as a knowledgeable public steward who could be trusted to advocate for the town's long-standing interests. He and the small but effective team at Lyme townhall have kept the municipal government operating like a well-oiled machine, working sharply to keep the community in strong financial shape without having to ask more of its constituents, and enhancing the locality's capacity for financial planning.

A bipartisan figure in the town of Lyme, Steven's impact has reached beyond administering the basic duties of a municipal government. Under his tenure as both Selectman and First Selectman, Lyme has been led by a watchful eye and bolstered by extensive financial planning, undergone a successful referendum toward the reconstruction of its school system, enhanced communications between the townhall and the public at large and experienced invaluable infrastructure improvements. Within the community, there is also a weighted value toward expanding the conservation of the town's small, historic, and environmental culture through its own public trusts and open spaces which Steven has undoubtedly continuously supported. In June 2022, Sustainable CT, a Statewide organization that uplifts inclusive, resilient and efficient municipal governance, recognized the leadership of Lyme and bestowed the town with its bronze certification. Clearly, the town of Lyme has benefitted from Steven's leadership.

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure and an honor to represent constituents like Steven and his wife Maddy, who have committed a significant portion of their lives to the underappreciated necessity that is responsible governance. I had a chance to see his devotion to his family back in 2014, when his daughter Carly worked on one of my election cam-

paigns. She, like her parents, is a personable, public-spirited citizen who did fantastic work interacting with coworkers and voters. Her parents were extremely proud of her efforts, which were a great reflection of their values and empathy for people. As Steven retires to appreciate more time with his family, his long-standing presence in the public eye of the Lyme community will be sorely missed. And though the void left behind by his departure will be difficult to fill, it is worth emphasizing the impact of his legacy and great standing in which he leaves the town of Lyme. To that end, Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Steven Mattson's personal contributions to the town's future and congratulating him on his well-earned retirement.

IN MEMORY OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ALEXANDER JEFFERSON

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the late Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Jefferson, a World War II Tuskegee Airman and one of Michigan's most decorated pilots as we honor his memory.

Jefferson's remarkable and heroic service figures prominently in our nation's history. He was considered to be one of the "original" Tuskegee Airmen, which drew heavily from Michigan and were the U.S. Army's first Black Air Corps. Jefferson served as a P-51 fighter pilot with the Red Tails, 332nd Fighter Group 301st Fighter Squadron in Ramitelli, Italy. His unit bravely escorted bombers into action, providing critical protection from enemy aircraft without losing a single plane.

Jefferson was captured as a prisoner of war on August 12, 1944, three days before the invasion of Southern France, after he was shot down while firing at German radar stations on the coast. Presumed dead, he was held for more than nine months. He was liberated by Patton's 3rd Army on April 29, 1945.

After the war, Jefferson served as an instrument instructor in advanced flight training at the Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama, continuing the storied Air Corps' legacy of excellence in flight. He was discharged from active duty in 1947 and retired from the reserves in 1969. In his civilian life, Jefferson worked as an elementary school science teacher in Detroit, where he would retire as an assistant principal in 1979. Jefferson served as a member of various church, educational, and alumni organizations, as well as being one of the founders of the Detroit Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen. He was a member of the Tuskegee Airmen Speaker Bureau, a life member of the Silver Falcon Association, and has served as an Admissions Counselor for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

He has received numerous awards and accolades for his bravery and his selfless service for our country, including the Purple Heart Award. He represented the best of Detroit. We have lost a great American patriot, a hero, and a Detroiter who should always be remembered for his service to freedom for our country. He may be gone from our sight, but never from our hearts. May his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF GLENDA GLOVER AS INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT AND CEO OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

HON. NIKEMA WILLIAMS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 11, 2022

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Dr. Glenda Glover, Ph.D., JD, CPA, as International President and CEO of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. As a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, I could not have asked for a better person to lead our more than 320,000 Sorors spread over at least 1,046 chapters from all over the world through the last four years.

Dr. Glover was born in Memphis, Tennessee the daughter of a civil rights activist and raised in the Civil Rights Movement. She graduated from Tennessee State University, an illustrious Historically Black College and University, before getting her MBA at another incomparable HBCU, Clark Atlanta University, proving that, truly, Atlanta Influences Everything. Not yet satisfied, she moved to Washington, D.C. and obtained a Ph.D. in Economics from George Washington University and a law degree from Georgetown University.

Professionally, Dr. Glover is a star. She spearheaded the creation of the country's first HBCU-based Ph.D. program in business at Jackson State University, and chaired the Department of Accounting at Howard University's School of Business. She has been a leader in the private sector, and currently serves as the President of her beloved alma mater, Tennessee State University, since 2013. Dr. Glover is not just the President either: she was the Thurgood Marshall College Fund's HBCU President of the Year in 2018, and HBCU Digest's 2019 Female President of the Year.

Dr. Glover did all of that while maintaining a leadership role in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. Initiated into the Alpha Psi Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated at Tennessee State University, where she served as President and Vice-President as an undergraduate. Dr. Glover has also served as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer of Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated in Jackson, Mississippi before moving up to International Vice-President, International Treasurer, and Treasurer to the Educational Advancement Foundation (EAF) of the entire Sorority.

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